

cleared only when there are no further data records for this IP, which is setting up the connection, to be updated in the direction of the further IP.

When long data records need to be distributed between a large number of IPs, the time required for a complete network-wide update may rise in an unacceptable manner. In cases such as this, the updating connection may be given a wider bandwidth (for example  $n \times 64$  kbit/s), and/or a number of other IPs may be updated at the same time.

**In the Claims:**

**What is claimed is:**

1. (Amended) A method for updating subscriber-related data records, which are stored locally in a number of service devices in a switching network, comprising:  
providing administrative measures, for each data record which is stored in one of the service devices, to store a list of the addresses of the other service devices which store the data record; and  
addressing each data record in a standard manner throughout the network, wherein a change to the data record is carried out on one of the service devices which stores the corresponding data record, and the service device reports the change throughout the network to the other service devices.
2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the service devices are included in the peripherals of a communications system.
3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the service devices are included in the network nodes of a switching network.
4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the lists are updated in the course of administration of the switching network or of the communications system.
5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,

wherein an old data record is stored until the initiation of the network-wide or switching-center-wide updating by the customer.

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the data record is updated by the service devices which initially have a new data record during a background process for successive updating of the other service devices.
7. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6,  
wherein repeated cyclic updating attempts are performed in the background process if the service devices to be updated are inaccessible or the attempts are unsuccessful.
8. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
further comprising utilizing connections which have been made temporarily between the service devices in order to update the data records.
9. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein an update-specific communication occurs between the service devices via a switching-center-internal message distribution system or, throughout the network, via ISDN user-to-user signaling, or switching-center internally and throughout the network via the Internet Protocol.
10. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein a number of data records are updated via one updating connection.
11. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10,  
wherein the updating format is defined in the course of the communication between the service devices.
12. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11,  
wherein the time required for updating is reduced by multiple channel connection and/or multiple starting of the background process.

13. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12,  
further comprising updating a time stamp to the update to prevent the current data record  
from being overwritten by older data records when a number of updating background processes  
are carried out at the same time.

14. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6,  
wherein activation of the background processes of service devices which are still in  
operation is carried out to update service devices which are being taken back into operation again  
after repair.

**In the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract with the substitute Abstract attached hereto.

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